

Investigation into Red Fort shoot-out case

4282. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA:

SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Enforcement Directorate and Delhi Police which had initiated a joint investigation into the Red Fort shoot-out incident in December, 2000 to nab those hawala operators who helped the militants get money through hawala channel has since completed;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when, the hawala operators are likely to be booked?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) to (c) Delhi Police and Enforcement Directorate conducted a joint raid at the premises of a Hawala operator, who is, however, still absconding. Since investigation into the case has not been concluded, it would be difficult to set any time limit by which the matter will be put to court.

Maharashtra's Request to ban SIMI

4283. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Maharashtra Government has requested the Central Government to impose ban on Students Islamic Movement of India (SIMI) in the wake of communal riots at pune and other parts of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, whether Government have also received reports that riots were started (engineered) by this organisation; and

(c) if so, what is Government's response in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) to (c) The Government of Maharashtra have reported that SIMI activists have been found involved in engineering communal incidents in Pune and Aurangabad in March 2001 and 21 cases have been registered under the relevant

[25 April, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

Acts and 206 persons including some SIMI activists have been arrested.

The State Government had suggested that the Government of India may examine the issue of banning the organization. Similar suggestions have been received from some other quarters as well. Such suggestions are carefully examined with reference to the available evidence before any view is taken in the matter.

The activities of all organizations having a bearing on maintenance of communal harmony in the country are under constant watch of law enforcement agencies and requisite legal action is taken, where necessary.

'Public Order' and 'Police' appear at Entry No. 1 and 2 of List-II—State List of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India. Hence, it is the primary responsibility of the State Governments to maintain public order and peace, including registration, investigation of crime and compiling of data relating to communal incidents.

The Government of India shares intelligence and sends advisories/alert messages to the States/UTs from time to time and Central Para-Military Forces are made available to them on specific request. A special force called the Rapid Action Force is deployed to deal exclusively with the communal tensions. Assistance is also being provided to State Governments for modernization of their policing infrastructure. In addition, detailed guidelines have been issued in October, 1997 for the promotion of communal harmony.

Campaign to Protect Children From Sexual Abuse

4284. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a need for a campaign in the society to protect children from sexual abuse; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to protect the children from sexual exploitation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) The Government of